

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-24 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0024880 to Moench et al. (hereinafter "Moench"); rejects claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-18 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moench and U.S. Patent No. 6,784,601 to Kai et al. (hereinafter "Kai"); rejects claims 7, 8, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moench and U.S. Patent No. 6,734,628 to Seki et al. (hereinafter "Seki"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Moench teaches all of the features as recited in the subject matter of at least the pending independent claims. However, Moench does not teach the features as amended into the independent claims. Specifically, Moench does not teach a pair of electrodes, electrode shafts, leads, metal foils, a light emitting portion and sealing portions, electrode shafts supporting the corresponding electrodes, one end of the metal foils being connected with the corresponding electrode shafts, other end of the metal foils being connected with the corresponding leads, at least the metal foils being sealed in the sealing portions respectively, as positively recited in the amended claims. Instead, Moench teaches, as illustrated by Fig. 1, and as discussed in paragraph [0027], a discharge base 21 which contains a discharge gas and an electrode arrangement. The electrode arrangement consists of a first electrode 22 and a second electrode 23. As such, Moench does not teach electrode shafts, leads, metal foils, electrode shafts supporting the corresponding electrodes, one end of the metal foils being connected with the corresponding electrode shafts, other ends of the

metal foils being connected with the corresponding leads, at least the metal foils being sealed in the sealing portions respectively.

The applied references of Kai and Seki do not overcome the deficiencies of Moench as discussed above.

For at least the above reasons, Moench, Kai and Seki, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to suggest, the combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 24. Further, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 would also not have been suggested by the applied references for at the least the respective dependence of these claims on the allowable independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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